

## WELSH COUNCIL

1968-1971

1. The Welsh Council succeeded the Welsh Economic Council and as the White Paper, Local Government in Wales (Cmnd 3340) published in 1967 made clear, the objective was to strengthen and improve the machinery for advisory and promotional work. Our terms of reference were extended beyond the economic field and our membership was strengthened by appointments from statutory and promotional bodies resulting in a Council which was more broadly based than our predecessor. Of the 37 members, ten were appointed by virtue of their membership of local authorities, eight from private industry, two from the nationalised industries, five from the Trade Unions, four (in addition to the Chairman) from the University of Wales and the remaining eight from other fields including agriculture, the Development Corporation for Wales, the Wales Tourist Board and the Welsh Arts Council. Fifteen of our members had previously served on the Welsh Economic Council.

2. The Council have been honoured by the attendance at meetings on three occasions of the Secretary of State for Wales and, on two occasions, of the Minister of State. We have met 19 times, mainly in Cardiff, but also at Llandudno, Aberystwyth, Haverfordwest, Bangor, Swansea, and Llandrindod Wells. Panels and Committees of the Council have met much more frequently.

3. The main work of the Council was undertaken by Panels and their Committees. At the first meeting of the Council three Panels were established. The Finance Panel under the Chairman's guidance immediately embarked on a study of the availability of public and private capital in Wales for development purposes and the means of improving its flow. The Industry and Communications Panel, under the Chairmanship of Mr. M. W. Rosser, carried out a series of studies aimed at reappraising and elaborating the strategy outlined in "Wales: The Way Ahead" (Cmnd 3334) published in July 1967. The Environmental Panel, with Professor H. Morris-Jones as Chairman, adopted a wide ranging remit to advise on matters affecting the quality of life in Wales. By the end of the first year of office three lines of investigation were being followed by this Panel, the preparation of a land use strategy, a study of the environmental problems of the South Wales industrial valleys and a study of the problems arising from the conservation of water resources in Wales. Following the transfer in April 1969 of responsibility for health services to the Secretary of State for Wales, the Health and Social Services Panel under the chairmanship of Professor W. M. Williams was established and undertook a study of the proposals contained in the Green Paper "The Reorganisation of the Health Service in Wales". Other Committees were also appointed to consider particular issues as they arose; the Report of the Consultants on "Llantrisant: Prospects for Urban Growth"; the problem of securing an adequate public passenger service in rural areas; and information relating to new construction and public works in Wales.

### FINANCE

4. The first major report to be considered by the Council was that of the Finance Panel. At our Llandudno meeting on 20 April 1969 we accepted the view that a financial institution with a commitment to Wales and a special



aptitude for assessing and projecting Welsh needs was urgently required. We concluded that an institution of this kind would serve several important functions. It would, for instance, mobilise scattered lots of deposit money into a flow of capital usable in terms of modern industrial needs. Furthermore, it would provide a flexible supply of finance for long term investment, particularly by small and medium-sized firms. Finally it would attract a flow of foreign deposits which could help to overcome the relative scarcity of Welsh resources and so constitute a channel which would promote new investment in Wales by overseas companies. The Council recommended to the Secretary of State that, if private sources should put up viable proposals for the registration of such an institution, the authorities concerned should pay full regard to the analysis and recommendations of the Council's report. This was published on 6 October 1969 under the title "The Availability of Capital for Small Firms in Wales". The Council have since noted with great satisfaction the registration of the Commercial Bank of Wales Limited on 12 February 1971 and share the hope that the bank will assist materially in the development of a strong and broadly based Welsh economy.

#### INDUSTRY AND EMPLOYMENT

5. The Council have paid particular attention to the effect of Government economic policies in Wales, especially their regional inducements policy. The problems of Wales were not confined to the Development Areas and this prompted the Council to submit evidence to the Hunt Committee on Intermediate Areas indicating that although the main inducements to incoming industry should continue to apply to the existing Development Areas, any form of intermediate assistance adopted for parts of Britain should also be applied to South East and North East Wales. We therefore welcomed the Government's proposal for an Intermediate Area covering a substantial part of South East Wales although we expressed regret at the decision to retain Merseyside (particularly those parts adjoining North East Wales) as a Development Area, contrary to the Hunt recommendation, and asked that the Government should keep the position of these areas under review. The Council whilst urging that assistance to Intermediate Areas should not be at the expense of assistance to Development Areas, suggested that least harm would be caused by reducing the Selective Employment Tax payable in Development Areas—a course of action which was subsequently adopted.

6. In October 1970 the new administration published the White Paper on "Investment Incentives" as part of a thoroughgoing review of regional policy. The Industry and Communications Panel undertook the task of assessing to what extent the new financial incentives maintained the weight of differential in favour of the Development Areas generally and the Wales Development Area in particular, a study which was subsequently published in March 1971 under the title "Investment Incentives". One of the main conclusions reached was that some firms would be faced with difficult liquidity problems. The recommendations we made are currently being considered by the Government.

7. In our review we also took account of the fact that the Regional Employment Premium would come to an end in 1974. The disappearance of REP could have adverse effects on the Welsh economy, particularly if this coincided with a continuance of deflationary measures to regulate the United Kingdom economy. The liquidity problems facing many Welsh firms would be aggravated and a rise in unemployment might result. In such circumstances, action might be required to restore to the Development Areas the differential advantage that they at present hold.

8. During the course of the Council's study the Government announced certain relaxations in IDC exemption limits from 3,000 sq. ft. to 5,000 sq. ft. in the Midlands and South East England and to 10,000 sq. ft. elsewhere. The Council welcomed the fact that the limits were to remain lower in the Midlands and South East than elsewhere in the country but we reiterated the view that the administration of control should remain very stringent. The Council also welcomed the extensions to Special Development Areas announced in February 1971.

9. A major part of the work of the Industry and Communications Panel has been to assess the progress being made towards broadening the base of manufacturing industry and lessening the dependence of Wales on the older basic industries. The contraction of the Welsh coal industry was proceeding apace when the Council was appointed, the numbers employed falling by 5,000 in 1966/67 and 7,800 in 1967/68. The Council in their first year advised on the economic and social consequences of particular colliery closures. The rapid rundown of the industry at that time was such that, in the Council's opinion, confidence in the long term prospects of the coal industry in South Wales was being undermined. For this and other reasons, the Council were strongly opposed to certain colliery closures. However, it was difficult to consider individual closures in isolation and a new procedure was adopted in 1969 which concentrated attention on the medium and longer term trends in the industry. However, the major contractions had by this time taken place and we welcomed the reprieve that was given in the past winter to collieries that were once in jeopardy. The contracting coal industry still presents serious problems to the economy of Wales. The uncertainty which has surrounded the future manpower requirements of basic industries, such as coal mining, places a considerable restriction on the effectiveness with which forward planning, both economic and physical can be undertaken.

10. Soon after the Council's appointment, the Industry and Communications Panel began a series of studies aimed at assessing the progress made in implementing the strategy outlined in "Wales: The Way Ahead" (Cmnd 3334). They first sought to reappraise the industrial strategy for South Wales; this was completed towards the end of 1969. This showed that structural changes in the economy were taking place but in a difficult economic climate. Industrial development was at a record level and our report analysed ways in which maximum advantage might be taken of the inducements then available for industrialists in Special Development Areas, the Development Areas and the Intermediate Areas of South Wales. Wales is relatively close to the major industrial areas of Britain and, given effective inducements, will continue to be an attractive location for new industrial and other development. We underlined the need for rapid progress to be made in the improvement of

communications within Wales and between Wales and the industrial growth centres of England and the Continent, and in public services including water, sewerage and telecommunications, that must be provided to cater for industrial expansion in Wales.

11. We however, drew attention to the marked fall in the number of persons in employment in Wales between 1966 and 1969. The decline in these years has been faster in Wales ( $-5.1\%$ ) than in any other UK region, the average UK decline being  $3\%$  over these years. We also drew attention to the continuing low activity rates in Wales—some  $20\%$  lower than the average for Great Britain in the case of males and females taken together. Furthermore, although unemployment has not risen at as fast a rate in Wales as in other parts of the United Kingdom in recent years, it has nevertheless remained well above the national average. In this connection we drew particular attention to the problem of longer term unemployment, especially in the upper valleys. All this points to the need to continue unabated the efforts that are being made to attract industry to Wales and to South Wales in particular.

12. During recent years there has been a considerable extension of the statistical information available on Wales. The Council welcome this, and have drawn attention to the continuing need for the improvement of statistical material used for the analysis of the existing situation, and as a basis for forecasting. We welcome in particular the publication from October 1970 of the Index of Industrial Production for Wales prepared by the Welsh Office and look forward to further advances in this field.

#### COMMUNICATIONS

13. Two major communications issues have been faced by the Council. We have sought to accelerate the programme of road building. We have also been faced with the difficult problems of contraction in the field of public passenger transport, both rail and bus services. These issues have been considered by the Communications Committee of the Industry and Communications Panel under the chairmanship of Alderman Kinsey Morgan.

14. In September 1968 we received a paper on the road programme prepared by the Welsh Office and, while approving the broad strategy for the improvement of roads, drew particular attention to the special and urgent need to extend the M4 and a deputation waited upon the Secretary of State to advise him of the Council's views. On 22 April 1969 the Secretary of State announced that the M4 would have first priority in the road construction programme and that work would commence as soon as the statutory procedures were completed. It is hoped to complete by 1976 a road to motorway or near motorway standards from the Severn Bridge to west of Pontardulais. We welcome the progress that is now being made in the completion of this vital road and the substantial additions to the road programme that have been made.

15. In October 1969 we also made representations to the Ministry of Transport (now incorporated in the Department of the Environment) on the need to include in their road strategy as contained in "Roads for the Future" proposals to improve links between the road networks of Wales and England, particularly between North and Mid Wales and the North West of England and the Midlands. These representations have subsequently been repeated,

in particular in the reports that the Council subsequently prepared on "An Economic Strategy for North West Wales" and "A Strategy for Rural Wales". We have also consistently emphasised the need for improving the roads linking North and South Wales.

16. In July 1969 the Council welcomed the recognition given in the report "British Air Transport in the Seventies" of the Committee under the Chairmanship of Professor Sir Ronald Edwards to the important role which air services could play in regional development and accepted that a third level of air services was needed in Wales to link the more remote parts of the country with the main network of domestic air services. We also welcomed the suggestion, that certain domestic feeder services should be subsidised but emphasised this should not be at the expense of direct government aid to the regions. The Council see the proposed transfer of the functions of the Welsh Advisory Committee for Civil Aviation to the Council as a logical step and recommend that whenever this occurs the membership of the Council should reflect the wider terms of reference.

17. On railway passenger services, the Council have advised on the economic justification for subsidising unremunerative services and on the economic implications of any closure proposals. The only profitable passenger services in Wales are those between Swansea and Paddington, certain inter-city services between Cardiff and (mainly) the Midlands, the boat trains to Holyhead and Fishguard and the sleeper service to Milford Haven. Grants in respect of other rail passenger services in or serving Wales, amounting to about £4½ million a year, have been given in the course of the Council's term of office. Two passenger services have been withdrawn, namely Bangor-Caernarvon in January 1970 and Treherbert-Bridgend in May 1970. Following the decision by British Railways to divert inter-city services from the route between North and South Wales via Hereford and Shrewsbury the Council made strong representations on the matter of retaining an effective and comfortable passenger service on the "border" route.

18. The whole question of grants for non-paying services is now under review. The Minister for Transport Industries has renewed those grants which expired at the end of 1970 but for only one year in respect of three North Wales services and for two years for six other services in South Wales. The extensions of grant which have been made are without prejudice to the withdrawal of the relevant service within the period of the undertaking if the due closure processes have been completed. In the case of the Machynlleth/Pwllheli service the case for continuing the grant is being tested by allowing British Railways to publish a closure proposal for this service, enabling a full examination of the proposal. This will include an investigation by the Transport Users Consultative Committee for Wales into the degree of hardship that would be caused by closure; the advice of the Welsh Council will also be sought on relevant social and economic considerations.

19. The Council have also been much concerned with the related problem of the future of rural bus services, particularly since the autumn of 1970 when the National Bus Company issued a directive to its subsidiaries, including the major operators of rural bus services in Wales, to withdraw loss-making services unless local authorities were prepared to provide rural bus

grants at an adequate level. We are encouraged by the response of nearly all the County Councils in Wales to this additional responsibility that has been given to them, and also by the assistance which the County Councils are receiving from the Welsh Office.

20. We are however firmly of the opinion that passenger services in rural areas, and indeed in all parts of Wales, must be looked at comprehensively and to this end have recommended that a major research project be undertaken to provide the basis for such a transport policy. In the meantime decisions on the future of particular services should not be made on an ad hoc basis. The Council are strongly of the view that the retention of a basic network of public passenger transport services is an all-Wales problem, and have recommended to the Secretary of State that it must be dealt with accordingly.

## REGIONAL PLANNING

21. Our first exercise concerned the Buchanan report "Llantrisant: Prospects for Urban Growth". Our object was to consider how the proposal would fit into the general strategy for economic development of South Wales. Our conclusions, taking account of the declared opinions of local authorities in the area, were published in May 1970 under the title "Llantrisant, Its Place in the Strategy for South Wales". The Council endorsed the support given by the Welsh Economic Council to the proposal for substantial urban growth at Llantrisant, but at a somewhat lower initial target figure than the 130,000-145,000 by 2001 suggested by the Consultants. We considered that the promotion of the new town would provide a stimulus to the economic development of the whole of South Wales, and we urged that the new town should be designated forthwith.

22. Our next exercise concerned the economic problems of Pembrokeshire arising from the proposed closure of the School of Artillery, Manorbier, and the Royal Naval Air Station at Brawdy. The representations that we were able to make were strengthened as a consequence of detailed discussions which we had with Pembrokeshire County Council. The Secretary of State attended the Council meeting at Haverfordwest in March 1970 and we welcomed his announcement of the decision to locate an alternative defence unit at Brawdy and other decisions which were in line with our recommendations.

23. The final report completed by the Industry and Communications Panel entitled "An Economic Strategy for North West Wales" was published in January 1971. This study was based on an assessment of the situation in the area after discussion with members of the Welsh Planning Board, and it was tested against the knowledge and experience of the County Planning Authorities. Meetings were held with each of the five County Councils concerned and these proved to be of particular value. The Report recognised that the implementation of the economic strategy for the area would be successful if allied with more rapid improvement of communications, particularly of roads along the North Wales coast and with the promotion of industrial development at certain selected centres namely Llandudno Junction, Bangor/Caernarvon, Llangefni, Holyhead and Portmadoc/Penrhyndeudraeth and to a smaller

extent at Bala within the Development Area and at Rhyl outside the Development Area.

24. We are of course conscious that a strategy for North West Wales cannot be prepared in isolation since it is bound to be influenced by developments in the north east of the country and indeed in North West England. Major issues affecting North East Wales will arise in the next few years and for this reason we believe that the next Welsh Council should give urgent consideration to the preparation of a strategy for that area.

25. During the course of our term of office the Welsh Council has been kept informed of the progress of the Central Unit for Environmental Planning Study of Severnside but the Report of the Unit will fall to be considered by the next Council.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING

26. In July 1965 the Welsh Economic Council set up the Derelict Land Panel to consider the whole question of dereliction in Wales and although they completed their work it was left to the Welsh Council to endorse their recommendations and to submit the report to the Secretary of State in 1968. The report was published subsequently and gave a useful insight into the problem and the scope for reclaiming derelict land. The tragedy of Aberfan brought about a dramatic change in the attitude towards derelict land and led to the creation of the Derelict Land Unit in the Welsh Office. This, together with the new enabling legislation, has resulted in 108 schemes of reclamation costing £5.1 million being approved in the last four years.

27. The first report completed by the Environmental Panel was on methods to improve in the short-term—and often times at little expense—the environment of the South Wales Valleys. This study was undertaken by a Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. G. R. Beeston. In July 1969, the Council accepted the recommendation of the Panel that the Welsh Office should be asked to publish a pamphlet on behalf of the Welsh Council illustrating in colour the principles that could be applied quickly and at small cost. This was published in May 1970 under the title “Your Valley” and was given wide publicity. Twenty thousand copies were printed and distributed, mainly through exhibitions organised by local authorities in a number of valley towns, and as part of the Welsh Office exhibition at the Royal National Eisteddfod of Wales, Ammanford. Many thousands of persons visited these exhibitions and showed a practical interest in the suggestions that were made. Particular mention should be made of the efforts of Monmouthshire County Council to plan a co-ordinated assault by all the district councils in the Western Valleys on untidyness and dereliction in their areas. We were particularly gratified with the efforts that were made by local authorities and others to achieve the objects of the campaign to brighten our valleys. The Council also recommended that an Environmental Unit should be established in the Welsh Office to assist local authorities and other bodies in improving the environment of their areas.

28. The second part of the work of the Environmental Panel concerned the question of the organisation and development of the water resources of Wales, and the Council adopted the report on “Water in Wales” at their



meeting in May 1970 and submitted it to the Secretary of State. The report, prepared by a Committee under the Chairmanship of Lt. Colonel the Hon. R. E. B. Beaumont, was published in full a month later. The theme of the report was that the development of the potential water resources of Wales both for water conservation and recreational purposes must be a principal objective of policy and that this could best be achieved by the establishment of a Water Development Authority. This Authority should be empowered to develop the water resources of Wales, including the building of new reservoirs in accordance with a general strategy approved by the Secretary of State for Wales. We also recommended that appropriate financial and administrative arrangements should be made to implement the principle that a continuing income be received by rural areas in which reservoirs are located in addition to the revenue they receive in the form of rate income.

29. The Council also submitted this report as evidence to the Central Advisory Water Committee which has been considering how the functions exercised by river authorities, public water undertakings and sewerage and sewage disposal authorities in England and Wales can best be organised. Oral evidence was given and subsequently supplementary evidence was submitted on the question of whether the proposed Welsh Water Development Authority should be vested with the ownership of reservoirs or whether it would be sufficient for the authority to receive a royalty from those who build and own reservoirs. We are clear that the Welsh Water Development Authority should build and own all new reservoirs and exceptionally acquire an existing reservoir when a major change is proposed in the function of such a reservoir. The Authority should be able to develop the recreational and other uses on or about existing reservoirs and should be able to raise revenue to this end, possibly by way of a royalty, the development to be undertaken in agreement with the reservoir authority either directly or by a trust set up specifically for the purpose. The reports of the Central Advisory Water Committee and the report of the Water Resources Board on the development of water resources in Wales and the Midlands will fall to be considered by our successors.

30. The last major report to be completed by the Environmental Panel entitled "A Strategy for Rural Wales" was accepted by the Council at the last meeting in March 1971. The report was the culmination of work which had been proceeding for some two years. The Panel had previously completed a Pilot Study for the three Mid Wales counties of Cardigan, Montgomery and Radnor. This had been considered by the Council in the Autumn of 1969 and published in January 1970 under the title "Land Use Strategy". This publication was an interim document, published for the purpose of inviting comment and observations from interested organisations. Agricultural interests in particular commented that insufficient attention had been paid to the agricultural potential of the area and too much emphasis given to tourism. The experience obtained in preparing the Pilot Strategy was of great value in preparing the "Strategy for Rural Wales". Our purpose in undertaking this work was to review the policies that were being applied in Rural Wales particularly with regard to the use of land and to see whether the Council could make suggestions that would lead to a better use of resources available for the development of the area.



31. In areas such as Rural Wales where the population is sparse, it is vital that there should be the closest co-ordination between the work of the individual bodies which have responsibility for particular functions in the areas. The administrative machinery that may be necessary to implement a strategy in such areas requires consideration of issues which go much further than would be proper in the context of what is essentially a planning strategy. A particular responsibility rests with the Welsh Office and we recommend that they should strengthen the lead that they already give in initiating and co-ordinating the efforts that are being made to implement a strategy for Rural Wales.

#### HEALTH AND RELATED SOCIAL SERVICES

32. Following the transfer of responsibility for health matters in Wales to the Secretary of State in April 1969, the Council established a Health and Social Services Panel to cover the new functions of the Welsh Office. Its main task has been to examine the Green Paper entitled "Reorganisation of the Health Service in Wales" and the Council's views on the reorganisation proposals were submitted to the Secretary of State in October 1970, and are reproduced in Appendix II to this Report. The main conclusion of our Report was that we see no effective alternative to the establishment of a Health Council for Wales to undertake those executive functions in the health field which must be continued on an all-Wales basis. This Health Council for Wales would have a major role in the process of planning the new integrated Health Service for Wales. Independent advice on the planning and organisation would be particularly useful in the formative years of the integrated Health Service, and the Council would fulfil a need for co-ordinating the work of the area health bodies. The existence of an all-Wales body independent of the Welsh Office would free the Secretary of State to act in a quasi judicial capacity in cases of dispute or where decisions about the administration of executive services are referred to him.

33. The Panel in its discussions looked briefly at the role of the district general hospital and its relation to local community health services and health and social service provisions in new towns. We see the Welsh Council as having an important part to play in advising the Secretary of State on such general and longer term aspects of health and related social service policy in Wales. We therefore welcome the statement in the Green Paper that the Secretary of State will look to the Welsh Council for advice on health matters as the occasion arises and that it should be strengthened for that purpose.

#### PUBLIC EXPENDITURE

34. The Council has regularly reviewed progress on new construction in the public sector—housing, water supply and sewerage, roads, schools, hospitals, education and other local government services. Figures, including also the associated current expenditure, are published in the annual Government White Papers on Public Expenditure (see table 2.33 in Cmnd 4578), and these show the pattern of what the Government contemplate for Wales. The Council have been pleased to note that this pattern gives high priority to those subjects to which the Council attach great importance, notably roads, water supply and sewerage and the reclamation of derelict land. The figures also

indicate the extent to which powers have been devolved to the Welsh Office in that about four-fifths of the capital expenditure on new works in Wales is in the range of functions for which the Secretary of State has direct Ministerial responsibility. Throughout the course of our studies our major concern has been to emphasize the need for flexibility between the financial provisions made under each of the heads of expenditure of the Welsh Office.

#### OTHER WORK

35. The Council's deliberations have ranged widely over issues of concern to Wales, and apart from the matters which we have indicated, the Council have considered matters ranging from the effect on the environment of supersonic flying of the Concorde to the financial position of the Welsh National Opera Company, the future of Dynevor Castle and to broadcasting services in Wales.

#### ASSESSMENT

36. Throughout our term of office the Council have sought, in the words of the first of our terms of reference, to advise on the implications for Wales of national policies. There has been a fruitful two-way traffic between the Council and the Welsh Office. On the one hand the Secretary of State has referred questions to the Council for consideration and advice and on the other the Council have initiated proposals which have been recommended to the Secretary of State and to other bodies. The Chairman of the Planning Board and the other officials closely concerned have played a big role in making the process work smoothly.

37. In this process the Council have had access to confidential documents and our submissions have a chance of being effective only if they are taken into account before policy is finally decided. By its very nature this function cannot be carried out in public: it cannot be exercised without mutual trust. The life blood of the advisory function is confidence.

38. In order to discharge our functions effectively the Council attach great importance to research and in this connection a major achievement has been the commissioning through the Welsh Office of a considerable piece of research in the field of regional social accounting. This three year project under the supervision of Professor J. R. S. Revell, University College, Bangor, will go beyond previous exercises in Welsh social accounting and will break new ground in addition to preparing fresh versions of the estimates of the Welsh gross domestic product and input/output tables.

39. The independence of the Council must depend on the degree to which we can commission such research and the facility with which we can assemble and prepare reports independent of Government departments. The White Paper which led to the establishment of the Welsh Council said that "it would be appropriate for the costs of the advisory work of the Council to be met by the Exchequer". In practice it has turned out that the "costs of the advisory work" have not included any resources directly at the disposal of the Council to enable the Council to conduct research. We consider there is a need for the

Council to carry out research work and this is fundamental to the role of proffering informed as well as independent advice. But more than this is involved. The measure of devolution so far achieved in Wales should at least include an adequate item in the Welsh Office vote to equip the Welsh Council with their own independent secretariat and research unit and the strengthening of the information services upon which the Council depend.

40. Much of our work has been undertaken under the second of our terms of reference—to assist in the formulation of plans for Wales in regard to the best use of its resources particularly on major land use and economic planning matters. It is our hope that the work that we have done will prove to be a sound foundation for the future action by both central and local government.

41. As to the third of our terms of reference—the promotion of the work of other public bodies in Wales—the presence on the Welsh Council of members of these public bodies has been of inestimable value to the work of the Council. We believe that these bodies have also gained from having members on the Welsh Council.

42. The second half of the Council's term of office was one in which much closer links were forged with local authorities in Wales. Our fourth term of reference enjoins us to co-operate with local authorities and this we have interpreted widely. Our concern to involve the County Councils in our work is reflected in the agreement which we have reached with the Counties' Committee on consultation procedures mainly—

- (a) consultations with an individual County Council where matters affecting that particular Council are concerned;
- (b) consultation with other County Councils jointly where matters affecting a wider area are concerned; and
- (c) periodic meetings between the Chairman of the Welsh Council and the Welsh Counties' Committee for general discussion on matters of common interest which affect County Councils.

Matters of a confidential nature and those not within the powers of local authorities are not the subject of such consultations.

43. The strength of the Council depends on being independent of Government and in being seen to be so. We have been concerned to keep the public informed of our work. Press conferences have been held after each Council meeting and eight reports have been published covering the main pieces of work on which we have been engaged. The Council attach great importance to maintaining this dialogue with the public.

44. This Council has tried to look at every question on its merits irrespective of sectional pressure groups. This objective, non-party approach was found to be essential to the proper exercise of the advisory function but it has not meant the suppression of deeply held convictions. Debate has been perfectly free and it has not been difficult to reach agreement about the ends in view. The criterion which has guided our actions has been the maximum

benefit to Wales. We have sought at various points in this report to give an indication of the tasks which lie ahead without in any way seeking to fetter the freedom of action of our successor. We see a continuing need for a Council to look at the problems from an all-Wales standpoint and we reproduce our written evidence to the Commission on the Constitution in Appendix III.

## WELSH COUNCIL PUBLICATIONS

<i>Title</i>	<i>Published</i>
The Availability of Capital for Small Firms in Wales .	October 1969
Land Use Strategy: Pilot Report Cardiganshire, Montgomeryshire and Radnorshire .	January 1970
Llantrisant: Its Place in the Strategy for South Wales .	May 1970
Your Valley . . . . .	May 1970
Water in Wales . . . . .	July 1970
An Economic Strategy for North West Wales . .	January 1971
Investment Incentives . . . . .	March 1971
A Strategy for Rural Wales . . . . .	March 1971

## REORGANISATION OF THE HEALTH SERVICE IN WALES

OCTOBER 1970

The Welsh Council submit the following observations on the Green Paper "The Reorganisation of the Health Service in Wales". We accept that the three branches of the Health Service should be integrated in a unified service. However the observations that we make are a response to the proposals contained in the Green Paper and are not intended as a final statement of the view of the Welsh Council on the organisation of the health services which requires a far more searching inquiry than the Council through its Health Panel has been able to undertake.

## AREA HEALTH BOARDS

2. We note the way in which it is proposed to allocate the services as between the Area Health Boards and the reorganised local authorities. We would stress that the administrative organisation must be such as to secure co-ordination of services between Area Health Boards and to ensure the overall planning of Health Services in Wales. The Green Paper, in paragraph 3.2 proposes that Area Health Boards should be co-terminous with the areas of the 7 new county and unitary authorities which may be set up. The administrative convenience of such a solution is clear but in other respects we believe that the resulting areas are not necessarily the best for the development of a unified health service. For example, hospitals in the unitary area of Swansea and West Glamorgan will draw patients extensively from parts of Carmarthenshire and from Breconshire. Again, the new county of Powys will not have within its boundaries a major general hospital nor is it likely to have. The Green Paper acknowledges (paragraph 3.4) that "it will be necessary to devise some machinery to ensure that the needs of Powys are not overlooked in the planning of health services in areas adjacent to the county." In the case of Powys, the Area Health Board should be entitled to appropriate representation on neighbouring Health Boards. We would like an assurance in any proposed legislation that Area Health Boards should be required, as one of their duties, to co-ordinate their services with those of other Area Health Boards. We would also suggest that appropriate provision should be made in legislation for dealing with exceptional cases such as Powys.

3. With regard to the statutory committee for Family Practitioner Services proposed in paragraph 3.17, we would like to be assured that the statutory committee will include members of the Area Board as proposed in the Green Paper for England, (paragraph 66) and further that lay members may find a place on such committees.

## DISTRICT COMMITTEES

4. We would like to see more precisely defined the role of the District Committees proposed in paragraph 3.16 of the Green Paper. We note that the Green Paper for Wales states that District Committees will be needed primarily in the interests of effective management. The Green Paper for

England indicates that no powers will be delegated to them by statute and that they will not have separate budgets. We consider that unless an adequate role is delegated to the District Committees they will not attract members of requisite calibre. Again, the Green Paper in discussing the membership of District Committees mentions two possible ways in which members drawn from the local community should be appointed. Of the two we prefer local representative bodies, including the professions and trade unions, to put forward names rather than for the members to be selected by the Area Health Board. However the Green Paper makes no mention of the role Community Councils nor of second tier authorities in nominating persons from their elected membership. There is need to look at the proposals for District Committees in greater detail and in particular to consider the extent to which their functions and memberships should be spelled out in legislation rather than left to the discretion of Area Health Boards.

#### ALL WALES MACHINERY

5. We see no effective alternative to a Health Council for Wales to undertake executive functions which must be continued on an all-Wales basis. The Green Paper concedes that many of the functions for which the Welsh Hospital Board is at present responsible should still continue in the future. Apart from planning hospital services in Wales, employing specialists, technical and professional staffs for the purpose, the Welsh Hospital Board provides common services such as computer services, supplies, legal, printing, organisation and methods; it provides medical and nursing advisory services, training courses etc. The continuation of these services on an all-Wales basis appears to us to be grounds for appointment of a Health Council for Wales. In addition, the Health Council for Wales would also have a major role in the process of planning the new integrated health service in Wales. Independent advice on detailed planning and organisation would be particularly useful in the early formative years of the integrated Health Service. Such a Council would fulfil the need for the co-ordinating machinery between the Area Boards to which we have already drawn attention. The existence of all-Wales machinery independent of the Welsh Office would free the Secretary of State to act in a quasi judicial capacity in cases of disputes or where decisions over the administration of executive services are referred to him.

#### THE WELSH COUNCIL AND HEALTH MATTERS

6. There is much to be said for postponing final decisions on all-Wales machinery until the Crowther Commission has reported. The relationship between the Health Council for Wales and the Welsh Council could then be reviewed in the light of the Commission's findings.

7. We are clear that the Welsh Council as present constituted cannot undertake the executive work we suggest should be undertaken by the Welsh Health Council. However, the Welsh Council will have an increasingly important part to play in advising the Secretary of State on general and longer term aspects of health policy in Wales. The Council, through the experience of its members, and re-inforced by the wide ranging studies undertaken by its Panels, are in a unique position to offer advice on broad issues of policy. The



Council already reviews public expenditure forecasts on new capital works, including health expenditure. We therefore welcome the statement in paragraph 3.20 that the Secretary of State will look to the Welsh Council for advice on health matters as occasion arises and that it should be strengthened for that purpose.

8. In the event of a decision to implement health reorganisation before a decision is taken on the recommendations of the Crowther Report, we consider that there would be advantage in establishing links between the Health Council for Wales we propose and the Welsh Council possibly by appointing a member(s) of the Health Council for Wales to the Welsh Council.

9. If however it is decided not to establish a Health Council for Wales we consider that the Welsh Council's role on health matters would have to be considerably extended in the interim period between the demise of the Welsh Hospital Board and the decision on any recommendations contained in the Crowther Report. In this interim period the Welsh Council would have to undertake a continuing advisory function rather than an occasional function as suggested in the Green Paper, ranging over the planning, policy, co-ordination and control of the Health Services in Wales if an adequate all-Wales advisory function is to be efficiently undertaken in the critical formative years of the unified health services now being proposed.

## EVIDENCE TO THE COMMISSION ON THE CONSTITUTION— FEBRUARY 1970

The Welsh Council submitted Written Evidence to the Commission and also oral evidence on 24 February 1970 when the Chairman accompanied by Professor Ivor Gowan appeared before the Commissioners under the chairmanship of Lord Crowther at a meeting at Cardiff. In their written evidence the Council, after outlining briefly the work of preceding advisory Councils in Wales submitted a half term assessment of their work and then concluded with a third section of the report on possible future development of the Council. This part of the evidence is reproduced below.

### POSSIBLE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Welsh Council, consisting of 37 persons drawn from a wide cross-section of Welsh life, derives strength from the variety of points of view represented on it. Some members are closely associated with organisations which have already given—or will give—evidence to the Commission and are committed to the views of these organisations. By the very nature of the Council, it was not to be expected that a unanimously agreed line would emerge from discussions of the complex and controversial problem of future devolution.

There are two alternative propositions which between them command a substantial degree of assent. One or two members are not attracted by either, and other would have reservations on matters of detail. But it is fair to say that a large number of members favour solutions on the lines of one or other of two models. These are put to the Commission as representing two broad streams of thinking on the Council. There is no support for any proposal which would involve a political separation of Wales from England.

### Model I

This solution envisages a strengthening of the Welsh Council as an advisory, promotional and co-ordinating body, with limited executive functions. It assumes that the responsibilities of the Secretary of State for Wales will be extended until they are at least equal to those of the Secretary of State for Scotland.

It also envisages the early reform of local government in Wales. The Government's proposals for most of Wales are already known, but those for Glamorgan and Monmouthshire are still awaited. Whatever the precise proposals, it is assumed that there will be fewer and much stronger authorities able to cope effectively with a wide range of functions. Co-operation between these new authorities will need to be fostered and developed as explained below.

The new and reformed local authorities should have as much freedom and autonomy as possible in carrying out their functions. The Model I solution does not entail a top-tier of local government on an all-Wales basis possessing a wide range of executive powers. Such an authority would inevitably be dominated by the members from the heavily populated areas of South-East

Wales. For this reason the case for using "all-Wales" machinery for running any service must be exercised with the utmost care.

It follows that, if the strengthened central government machinery is sound and the local government structure and machinery is reformed, the Model I Welsh Council could not be conceived as primarily executive, taking over either a range of central government functions or of local government functions. There may however be a case for its performing some executive functions along the lines of the Redcliffe-Maud Report relating to Provincial Councils. But the role of the Model I Welsh Council would be primarily advisory, promotional, co-ordinative, and only to a limited extent executive.

The Model I Welsh Council could have the following functions:—

- (1) To advise the Secretary of State and where necessary other Ministers on measures and policies specific to Welsh interest. This is an existing and developing field of the present Welsh Council and it should continue. It involves the passing of confidential information to members of the Welsh Council since they may be involved in policy decisions at a formative stage. The system works well and could profitably be extended.
- (2) To advise the Secretary of State on economic planning for the whole of Wales. This continues the work of the Welsh Economic Planning Council and the present Welsh Council. It is an essential part of the Council's range of duties and provides an important bridge between central and local government.
- (3) The furthering of co-operation between local authorities. Many lines of this activity were set out in paragraph 56 of the White Paper, *Local Government in Wales*. Virtually no progress has yet taken place in this sphere because of the priority of other tasks, but there is a possible range of functions here. Co-operation in the techniques of management and training comes to mind. The Council itself could also handle some activities covering a range of the local authorities, e.g. some aspects of social services. In the field of education the WJEC provides a very good example of an all-Wales body promoting activities involving the co-operation of several local authorities. It therefore becomes a point for consideration whether the WJEC itself might move closer to the Welsh Council, but this raises the wider issue of advisory bodies and 'ad hoc' executive authorities generally which will be considered in the next paragraph.
- (4) The majority of the executive and advisory bodies listed in the evidence of the Welsh Office to the Commission are responsible to a Minister who is himself answerable to Parliament. To this extent, Welsh MP's can scrutinise their activities. This is not altogether satisfactory, as the time for such questioning and scrutiny is limited. An improvement in the procedure in the House of Commons could help to solve this problem. But there is also the question of co-ordinating their activities. The very multiplicity of these bodies means that they are each dealing with a facet of wide problems affecting posts throughout Wales. The Council has observed, for example, in its study of Mid-Wales, how many of these bodies are involved and to what an extent their activities

overlap. If, in the future, the Welsh Council itself is to emerge as the principal link between the local authorities and central government, then some consideration must be given to the point where some of the advisory and 'ad hoc' executive bodies in Wales can be brought within the Council's terms of reference.

How can this be done? Some synthesis is already achieved by having on the Welsh Council the Chairmen or prominent members of these various bodies, but further machinery needs to be devised to this end. Some possibilities are as follows:—

- (a) Discussion of the reports of these bodies by the Welsh Council.
- (b) The creation of specialist panels by the Welsh Council that link with the advisory and executive bodies.
- (c) The transfer to the Welsh Council itself of some of the functions, e.g. Arts, Sport.

This is a complex problem. For example the whole question of health administration is very involved, and education machinery is already complex. At this stage we content ourselves with stating the point of principle. More time is needed for working out the details.

### *Membership*

The functions discussed in the preceding paragraphs suggest that the Model I Welsh Council should be partly nominated, as at present, and partly elected by the local authorities. Advisory work depends on the selection of suitable individuals and this could only be done by nomination by the Secretary of State for Wales. On the other hand, over a wide range of activities, the Welsh Council would inevitably be closely linked with the local authorities, and the bridging function between central and local government is vitally important. It should be possible for the local authorities to elect half the members of the Council, and for these members to be drawn from all geographical areas in Wales. It can be envisaged that each of the new county authorities will be represented. This method of "indirect election" has also the advantage of improving the public accountability of the Welsh Council. No doubt the major political leaders of the local authorities would be chosen. But if the local authority members worked closely with the nominated members, as they do at present, it is unlikely that the work of the Welsh Council would become subject to the stresses and demands of party politics. Moreover, a great deal of work would have to be done in panels or committees, to which other members could be co-opted.

In any scheme of reform the Welsh Council should have a strong secretariat and independent sources of finance. For reasons given in Section II, the Council should have adequate resources at its own disposal to enable it to exercise powers of scrutiny and to give independent advice.

### **Model II**

The Model II solution recognises that the establishment of the Welsh Office has brought an appreciable degree of devolution and substantial benefits to Wales. It is of great importance that the Secretary of State is in the Cabinet. The problem is how to secure more accountability to the people of Wales and

a greater exercise of powers on an all-Wales basis. It may not be possible to satisfy these aspirations adequately solely by extending the area of responsibility of the Welsh Office.

Local government is an important part of the answer to the demand that the people should be able to take an active part in the process of making decisions on matters closely affecting them. That is why in both Model I and II solutions it is assumed that the new local authorities have a range of worthwhile functions and as much freedom and autonomy as possible in carrying them out.

The Redcliffe-Maud Report points out that "... local government is the only representative political institution in the country outside Parliament; and being, by its nature, in closer touch than Parliament or Ministers can be with local conditions, local needs, local opinions, it is an essential part of the fabric of democratic government. Central government tends, by its nature, to be bureaucratic. It is only by the combination of local representative institutions with the central institutions of Parliament, Ministers and Departments, that a genuine national democracy can be sustained". (Cmnd. 4040, June 1969, p. 11.)

Applied to Wales, the last proposition is by no means self-evident. If central government tends, by its nature, to be bureaucratic and if the aim is to attain a genuine national democracy in Wales, a combination of representative local authorities and the central institutions of Parliament, Ministers and Departments is not enough. The Redcliffe-Maud Report says that "... through their local representatives people throughout the country can, and in practice do, build up the policies which national government adopts—by focussing attention on local problems, by their various ideas of what government should seek to do, by local initiatives and local reactions". (Ibid. p. 10.) Many of the ideas which Welsh local authorities have of what central government should seek to do will have a distinctly Welsh character, and, as things are now, they can only be realised through a Department accountable to Parliament in Westminster. A reformed system of local government is a necessary but not sufficient condition for the satisfaction of the aspiration for greater public involvement in initiatives and decisions affecting Wales.

Model II, like Model I, assumes that the responsibilities of the Welsh Office will be extended until they are roughly equal to those of the Scottish Office. The Secretary of State, "representing not a Department but a country" (a phrase once used by Lord Birkenhead), would be answerable to Parliament over a very wide range of subjects and would carry an immense weight of executive and administrative responsibilities. This could entail a vast administrative outpost of Whitehall in Wales without any accompanying means of making it answerable to the people of Wales. Sir Goronwy Daniel, then Permanent Secretary at the Welsh Office, when he gave evidence to the Commission, was asked whether there was not a danger that Wales would be governed by a civil service elite because there was no participation by the people themselves and because the facilities of Parliament were restricted. Sir Goronwy said, "I think a danger of this kind could arise". This is an important point. Civil servants might well provide good government, but it would hardly be self-government.

There is a widespread feeling, not confined to nationalist circles, that too much unitary power is exercised by central government, with a tendency to impose uniform patterns which take too little account of regional diversity.

Administrative devolution cannot therefore alone meet the requirement that the people of Wales should participate in ordering their own affairs, since its emphasis would still be on "regional planning from above" as distinct from "regional planning from below". An advisory Council can seek to influence policy; but, for reasons given earlier, the advisory function cannot be carried out in public. Moreover, a nominated Council lacks a democratic base, since it owes its existence to the regional arm of central government. "Regional planning from below" must of course take place within the ambit of government policy; but it implies that within certain areas the decisions taken conform to the wishes of a representative body in Wales.

The above considerations lead those members of the Council who support the Model II solution to the conclusion that, to satisfy the aspiration that the people of Wales should have a voice in decisions affecting their country, the goal should be the establishment of an elected Assembly. To rephrase the sentence already quoted from Redcliffe-Maud, it is only by the combination of strengthened local authorities with an elected Welsh Assembly as a counterpoise to the central institutions of Parliament, Ministers and Departments that a genuine national democracy can be sustained.

This Model would give the Assembly important functions. One reason for public indifference to local government as shown in the small proportion bothering to vote and the reluctance of many able and public spirited people to run for election is that local authorities have lost so many responsibilities, e.g. hospitals, public assistance, some civil airfields, main roads, electricity and gas supply. There may have been good reasons for these transfers of function, but the result has been a dangerous weakening of the only representative political institutions outside Parliament and a corresponding increase in the power of central government and the intermediate boards which it creates. If an elected Welsh Assembly were given important work to do, there would be likely to be an ample supply of good candidates, including many from the young generation.

The Assembly should in any case be given an important range of functions as a counterpoise to the tendency towards over-centralisation. It would have a power base in Wales and when it promoted or scrutinised policies it would carry weight. The Assembly should have far wider responsibilities than are envisaged for provincial councils by the Redcliffe-Maud report. These might include, for example, education, the health service, transport, strategic economic planning and an oversight of the areas now covered by nominated bodies. The advisory functions of the present Welsh Council could be carried out by a small committee of the Assembly meeting in private. The Assembly would need a strong independent secretariat, with a recognised career structure, and adequate resources for research. It could be responsible among other things for organising a Welsh Statistical Office. The Assembly might be represented on the management boards of the relevant sections of nationalised industries, e.g. British Rail, Gas Board, etc. A half-way house of this kind would imply a sharing of responsibilities between the Welsh Office and central departments, on the one hand, and the Welsh Assembly, on the other, and consideration would have to be given to how accountability would be effected in practice.

How the goal can be achieved cannot be indicated exactly. There are important constitutional, financial and legal implications to be worked out.

The main object of this part of the evidence has been to deal with matters of principle and to choose the ultimate objective which best satisfies the criteria laid down.

Under Model II the ultimate goal would need to be approached in stages. As a first step, it is suggested that an interim Welsh Council might be set up for a term of three years. About half the members would be indirectly elected from the local authorities and the other half nominated by the Secretary of State for Wales. It would elect its own Chairman. It would have two main functions. First, it would be charged with the task of examining the implications of setting up an elected Welsh Assembly and working out the best possible model. This would have the great advantage of enabling a representative body in Wales to participate in formulating an important advance in self-government. Secondly, the interim Council would continue to exercise advisory functions and might also have some oversight over the nominated bodies with a view to rationalising this area.

For both these tasks, the interim Council would be equipped with a strong independent secretariat and research section, with resources to enable it to call on expert advice. It would be charged with the responsibility of submitting a report to the Secretary of State by the end of its three year term.





WELSH OFFICE

# Welsh Council 1968-1971



*CARDIFF*

HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE  
1971



## **WELSH COUNCIL**

**1968-1971**

### **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

- (a) To provide a forum for the interchange of views and information on developments in the economic and cultural fields and to advise on the implications for Wales of national policies.
- (b) To assist in the formulation of plans for Wales having regard to the best use of its resources and to advise the Secretary of State for Wales on major land use and economic planning matters, including transport and communications.
- (c) To help to promote the work of the Development Corporation, the Wales Tourist Board, the Arts Council and of similar public bodies functioning in Wales as a whole, or in a significant area of the Principality.
- (d) To encourage co-operation between the local authorities through schemes approved by the appropriate ministers.



## WELSH COUNCIL

### CHAIRMAN

Professor Brinley Thomas, OBE, MA, PhD

### VICE CHAIRMEN

Mr. Tom Jones, OBE, JP . . . . .	Regional Secretary, TGWU
Sir Alfred Nicholas, CBE, LLD . . . . .	Chairman, Development Corporation for Wales
Alderman Mrs. Dorothy Rees, CBE, JP . . . . .	Glamorgan County Council

### MEMBERS

Alderman John Allison, JP . . . . .	Swansea County Borough Council
Lt. Col. the Hon. R. E. B. Beaumont, CBE, TD, JP, VL . . . . .	Chairman, Welsh Committee, COSIRA
Mr. G. R. Beeston, CBE, MA, JP . . . . .	Deputy Chairman, Transport Users Consultative Committee, Wales and Monmouthshire
Principal C. W. L. Bevan, CBE, BSc, PhD, FRIC . . . . .	University College, Cardiff
Mr. W. F. Cartwright, LLD, DL, MI, MechE . . . . .	Deputy Chairman, British Steel Cor- poration
Colonel W. R. Crawshay, DSO, ERD, TD, ADC, DL . . . . .	Chairman, Welsh Arts Council
Mr. Bryn Davies . . . . .	South Wales Organiser, National Union of Agricultural Workers
Sir David Davies . . . . .	Chairman, Wales Tourist Board until 1970
Mr. G. Prys Davies, LLM <sup>(1)</sup> . . . . .	Solicitor
Mr. J. A. Davies, JP . . . . .	Member, National Farmers Union Council
Dr. Margaret Davies, MA, PhD . . . . .	Chairman, Committee for Wales, Countryside Commission
Councillor W. Armon Ellis, OBE, LLB . . . . .	Flintshire County Council
Mr. A. J. Evans, MBE, FIAC . . . . .	Clerk, Llangefni Urban District Council
Major A. S. D. Graesser, OBE, DSO, MC, TD, DL, JP . . . . .	Managing Director, R. Graesser Ltd.
Professor Ivor Gowan, MA . . . . .	University College, Aberystwyth
Mr. Ken Griffin, OBE <sup>(2)</sup> . . . . .	Area Secretary, Electrical, Electronic and Telecommunication Union— Plumbing Trades Union
Sir Julian Hodge, FACCA . . . . .	Merchant Banker

---

<sup>(1)</sup> Resigned in September 1968 on appointment as Chairman, Welsh Hospital Board.

<sup>(2)</sup> Resigned in December 1970 on appointment as Industrial Adviser, Department of Trade and Industry.

Professor H. Morris-Jones, BA, BLitt . . . . .	University College, Bangor
Mr. T. Mervyn Jones, CBE, MA, LLM (CANTAB) LLB (Wales) .	Chairman, Wales Gas Board until 1970
Mr. Arthur Katz, OBE . . . .	Chairman, Wales Tourist Board
Mr. Henry J. Kroch, OBE . . .	Managing Director, Mettoy Limited
	Managing Director, A. B. Electronic Components Limited
Alderman E. T. Kinsey Morgan, CBE	Radnorshire County Council
Alderman R. H. Owen, BEM, JP .	Caernarvonshire County Council
Councillor W. C. Philpin . . .	Pembrokeshire County Council
Mr. M. W. Rosser . . . . .	Partner, Deloitte and Company
Mr. O. Graham Saunders . . .	Regional Secretary, South Wales Ad- visory Committee, Trades Union Congress
Mr. Douglas A. Scott, OBE, JP, FIOB . . . . .	Chairman, Andrew Scott (Civil En- gineers) Limited
Alderman P. Squire, OBE, JP .	Chairman, Sports Council for Wales
Councillor D. D. Thomas, MBE, JP	Llandeilo Rural District Council
Alderman G. A. S. Turnbull, TD, JP	Director, Edward Curran Engineering Limited
Mr. S. C. Vowles <sup>(3)</sup> . . . . .	General Manager, Esso Refinery, Milford Haven
Mr. Glyn Williams . . . . .	President, South Wales Area, National Union of Mineworkers
Mr. G. Prys Williams, MBE . . .	Economic Consultant
Mr. Trevor L. Williams, OBE, LLM	Clerk, Wrexham Rural District Council
Professor W. M. Williams, MA .	University College, Swansea

#### CO-OPTED MEMBERS (ENVIRONMENTAL PANEL)

Dr. D. A. Bassett, BSc, PhD, FGS .	Member, Water Resources Board
Mr. I. Cassam, BA, BD (Wales) .	Director, Council of Social Services for Wales and Monmouthshire
Alderman E. Gwyn Davies, CBE, JP	Glamorgan County Council
Mr. J. Llewellys Davies CBE . . .	Chairman Mid Wales Industrial De- velopment Association
Mr. T. M. Haydn Rees, DL . . . .	Clerk, Flintshire County Council
Mr. J. Kegie, OBE, MTPI, FRICS, AIAS . . . . .	County Planning Officer, Monmouth- shire County Council
Mr. D. W. Jones Williams, OBE, MC, TD, LLB . . . . .	Clerk, Merioneth County Council

<sup>(3)</sup> Resigned in February 1969 on appointment as General Manager, Esso Refinery, Fawley. Vacancy filled by Mr. Katz.

## FOREWORD

TO THE RT. HON. PETER THOMAS, QC, MP, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WALES

I have the honour to present the final report of the Welsh Council whose term of office expires on 31 March 1971. This describes the work of the Council and summarises the main recommendations which we made.

There have been some changes in membership. Mr. G. Prys Davies resigned in September 1968 on being appointed Chairman of the Welsh Hospital Board and Mr. S. C. Vowles in February 1969 when he left Wales to become General Manager of the Esso Refinery at Fawley, Southampton. In December 1970 Mr. Ken Griffin resigned on being appointed industrial adviser in the Department of Trade and Industry. Mr. Arthur Katz was appointed a member in August 1969.

The Council acknowledge with gratitude the encouragement that you and your predecessors have given to their work and they express their appreciation of the extent to which their recommendations have been taken into account.

The Council are deeply indebted to the Permanent Secretary of the Welsh Office, Mr. I. V. Pugh, CB, and his predecessor, Sir Goronwy Daniel, KCVO, and to the staff of the Welsh Office who have given unstintingly their time and experience in assisting the work of the Council and its Panels. We wish to pay particular tribute to the guidance we have received from Mr. Hywel W. Evans, Chairman of the Welsh Planning Board and for the assistance that he and members of the Planning Board have given to the work of the Council. We also wish to record our gratitude to all other Government Departments, local authorities and other bodies too numerous to detail here, for the ready way in which they individually have assisted the work of the Council.

The Council have requested that their appreciation of the services of their Chairman, should be recorded. They also wish to express their gratitude to the Chairman of the Panels and Committees who have given so much time and effort to the affairs of the Council.

The Council also wish to express their appreciation to their Secretaries, Mr. R. D. Potter until March 1969 and Mr. R. Hall Williams, for the final two years of the Council's term of office and to their staffs.

I would end by expressing a personal note of thanks for the wholehearted support which I have had from the members of the Council during the last three years.

On behalf of the Council



*Chairman*